Closure of public sector textile mills

145. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to close down a number of public sector textile mills spread over in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bangalore, Madhya Pradesh; etc.;

(b) if so, what are the names of these mills and the number of workers and employees in each mill; and

(c) what are the reasons for the closure of these mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Textile Policy envisages that "the continued operation of units, which are incapable of becoming viable, would mean a continued drain on scarce resources and such units or part thereof may have to be closed down to prevent any further losses". However, no final decision has been taken to closs down any NTC mills so far.

Goa agitation on language issue

146. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Goa are agitated over the issue of status for Marathi and Konkani Languages;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to examine the issues involved and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.;

(b) The supporters of Konkani language were demanding that Konkani alone should be given the status of official language whereas supporters of Marathi were demanding that Marathi should also be given the status of official language alongwith Konkani;

(c) The Goa, Daman and Diu Legislative Assembly has passed the Goa, Daman and Diu Official Language Bill, 1986 with an amendment on 4-2-1987 which declares that Konkani language (Devnagari script) shall be the official language for all purposes of the Union Territory and that in case of Goa district Marathi language and in the case of Daman and Diu districts Gujarati language shall also be used for all or any of the official purposes.

Looting of a bank by terrorists in Punjab

147. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terrorists in Punjab looted Rs. 6 crores from a bank in Ludhiana on the 12th February, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is a most sensational and pre-calculated robbery in recent times;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to have a rethinking in tackling the terrorist menace in Punjab; and

(d) if so, what are the Government plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the available information an amount of about Rs. 5.69 crores was looted by suspected terrorists in a sensational robbery in a bank at Ludhiana on 12th February, 1987;

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken to strengthen security arrangements in banks in Punjab and other places;